

7-1 What Is a Fossil?

PART 1

Below are 10 statements regarding fossils. Place a check mark (✓) in the space to the left of each true statement. (*Hint: There are six true statements.*)

- 1. All organisms die and become fossils.
- 2. A fossil may be an impression of the original organism.
- 3. Many fossil records are molds and casts.
- 4. Organisms with soft parts have the best chance of becoming fossils.
- 5. Some organisms leave behind traces of carbon as fossil evidence.
- 6. Replacement occurs when minerals replace original hard parts of an organism.
- 7. Tar pools trapped and preserved animals that lived during the Precambrian era.
- 8. Ancient insects, trapped in tree resin, left behind well-preserved body structures.
- 9. An organism may die, dry out, and leave behind mummified remains.
- 10. The process of metamorphism seldom distorts or destroys fossil evidence.

Now write a definition for *fossil* using the following key terms: *life, evidence, past, and preserved.*

A fossil is _____

PART 2

Check over the false statements. Change them into true statements by adding or deleting words or by rearranging the sentences. Write your rewritten statements on the back of this sheet. (*or beside the original one above*)

Identify the Phylum

